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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

On April 17, 1918, President Stieglitz sent the following notice to the members of the Executive Committee:

"From recent correspondence it appears that the members of the Executive Committee on the whole would prefer to meet in Chicago on Friday, May 10, and in agreement with this choice I hereby call a meeting of the Committee for that day at 9:30 A. M. at the Quadrangle Club, Corner of 58th St. and University Avenue.

Arrangements will be made to have the committee take lunch and dinner together at the Quadrangle Club. Judging by previous experience we probably will finish our work in a one day session. The members are cordially invited to suggest topics for consideration by the Executive Committee."

In accordance with this notice, the Executive Committee convened at 9:30 Friday morning, May 10, in the Quadrangle Club of the University of Chicago. The members in attendance were: President Stieglitz in the chair, Messrs. Eigenmann, Ellery, McClung, Richtmyer, and Ward.

The first item of business was the consideration of matters referred to the Committee by the Pittsburgh Convention. The contract for associate membership pins, which had been prepared by the Secretary in accordance with the instruction of the Convention, was discussed and approved. The Executive Committee then, on motion, instructed the Secretary, in carrying out the orders of the Convention, to ship to chapters only pins specifically engraved for the individual, and to make such shipment in accordance with instructions received from the chapter secretary, but only on full prepayment of charges. The contract price for each emblem, to which had to be added the war tax levied by the Government and transportation charges, brought the cost for each pin up to \$2.15, which sum was duly approved as the amount to be paid by the chapter secretary for each pin ordered. The Committee appointed Messrs. Richtmyer and Ward to take charge of arranging the details of the contract, with power to act. The Secretary was further instructed to prepare printed labels for shipment of pins and printed order blanks containing specifications for distribution to chapter secretaries and use in sending orders for these emblems.

The question of chapter organization was brought up for discussion, with especial reference to the origin of some misunderstandings and difficulties or confusion incident to methods heretofore followed. Emphasis was laid upon the fact that this situation could often be traced to the fact that the chapters attempt to work through two secretaries, and that the notices sent out by the national Secretary, in accordance with custom, to the corresponding secretary of each chapter never came to the attention of the recording secretary who is the real working force of the local organization. It was decided to call the attention of chapters conspicuously to the recommendation of the Executive Committee made at the Chicago meeting, May 4, 1917, that the office of corresponding secretary be eliminated in chapters as it already has been in the national organization (see *QUARTERLY* vol. V, p. 88).

The following communication was presented from the Washington University Chapter at St. Louis:

"According to the constitution of the society of Sigma Xi, there may be elected as a non-resident member of an active chapter any professor, instructor, or investigator connected with a neighboring educational, scientific, or professional institution not having a chapter, who otherwise would be eligible for active membership. I wish to know if the director of a scientific state bureau, with no official connection with any educational institution, would come within this classification, provided, of course, that the man has met the requirements as an investigator."

After discussion, the following minute was adopted:

The Executive Committee has been asked to interpret Article III, section 4 (b) of the Constitution, reading

"As a non-resident member, any professor, instructor or investigator connected with a neighboring educational, scientific or professional institution not having a chapter, who would otherwise be eligible for active membership."

Subject to the correction of the Convention, the Executive Committee interprets "neighboring educational scientific or professional institution" to include scientific state or national bureaus or research laboratories of industrial concerns having organized research departments which contribute to the sum of scientific knowledge. Laboratories which do not publish any of their results are not included in this interpretation.

As an explanation of the term "who would otherwise be eligible for active membership," the Executive Committee desires to emphasize the statement of the Constitution concerning professors or instructors eligible to membership. The constitution states that "a professor or instructor who has shown noteworthy achievement as an original investigator in some branch of pure or applied science" is eligible to membership. Attention is called to the fact that this limitation ought to obtain clearly for members of the "neighboring" institution mentioned above. As reported to the Convention of the Society in 1916 (see SIGMA XI QUARTERLY, March, 1917, p. 26) "in the election of faculty and non-resident members, emphasis should be laid in fact, as it is in form, upon the words 'noteworthy' in the phrase 'noteworthy achievement' and 'original' in the phrase 'as an original investigator.'"

Attention was also called to a statement in the Quarterly of March 1917, page 3 "that *routine* construction or publication of *routine* work does not meet the spirit of the Constitution."

The Executive Committee recommends that Art. III, sec. 4 (b) of the constitution be amended by omitting the words "as a non-resident member" so as to read; (b) "any professor, instructor or investigator, connected with a neighboring educational, scientific, or professional institution not having a chapter, who would otherwise be eligible for active membership." Under the terms of the Constitution, these men are already active members and the term "non-resident" is a superfluous designation.

The Executive Committee also recommends that Art. III, sec. 4 of the Constitution be further amended by adding at the end, (e) "alumni members of any chapter resident in the vicinity of an institution who may apply to the chapter for the assumption of active membership."

The discussion with regard to the various phases of membership led to the clear conviction that our present regulations were confused and uncertain by virtue of the use of different terms for the same kind of membership, and similar terms for different types. It was accordingly voted to request ex-president Howe to recast the terminology, and in connection with the President and Secretary to prepare material for submission to the next convention, making such changes as will render the intent of the Society clear.

The Executive Committee voted to instruct the Secretary to report for its consideration any and all cases of elections to mem-

bership in which the specific provisions of the Constitution were not definitely complied with.

The following communication was presented from a chapter with a request that the Executive Committee consider the questions and take such action as seemed appropriate, publishing the same for the information of chapters and members:

- (1) Professor A, a member of a chapter at another institution, becomes affiliated with this chapter, pays dues for a few years and then withdraws from the chapter, altho continuing in the same academic capacity.
- (2) Professor B is elected by this chapter as a faculty member. He also pays dues for several years, and then withdraws, altho like A he remains with the University.
- (3) Mr. C is elected from the student body at the end of his senior year. The next fall he enters another department of the University where he is listed as an undergraduate.

What is the status of each in the chapter and in the Society of the Sigma Xi?

Members of the Executive Committee commented definitely upon the fact that such instances as (1) and (2) are clearly opposed to the letter and spirit of the Constitution. That document at its outset makes the organization a society of Companions in Zealous Research, and calls upon members for efficient participation. Furthermore, the pledge taken by every person assuming membership in the organization, but that specific refusal to participate indicated a different Society of the Sigma Xi and assume the responsibilities incumbent upon active (or associate) membership therein," and consequently an attitude of indifference is a direct and specific repudiation of the pledge that has been taken.

The discussion brought out the fact that any neglect to comply with full responsibilities constitutes an unfortunate evidence of failure to appreciate the privileges and responsibilities of the organization, but that specific refusal to participate indicated a different and still more unfortunate attitude. Hence, the spirit of the individual was all-important in deciding the particular case. Since the home chapter was cognizant of conditions, it should and must vote on the case in the light of its knowledge, and such action should, in the interests of the chapter no less than of the entire organization, be taken with a full sense of the responsibilities in the case.

On specific motion the Executive Committee voted that in case 2 cited above, the person described should be considered to have severed his connection with organization on the basis of having broken his membership pledge. The Executive Committee further voted to request chapter secretaries to send specific information in such cases for entry on the records of the society.

In case 1 the circumstances were held to agree substantially with those under case 2, and on motion the same action was taken.

In case 3 the Executive Committee was of the opinion that any such individual clearly continued his membership in the organization and did not suffer any change of relation by moving from one department to another. This ruling was, on motion, approved by unanimous vote.

In connection with this discussion, the Secretary was instructed to call the attention of chapters to the importance of seeing that all newly elected members actually sign the pledge which is required by the Constitution to complete their membership, and that no persons be recognized as members, or reported as such, or granted the privilege of wearing the badge of the Society, or any other rights of members, until this condition has been complied with.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the American Association for the Advancement of Science indicating the outlook for a meeting of that Association in Baltimore, December 27-31, 1918, at Johns Hopkins University. The letter read in part as follows:

"Because of the very large number of prominent scientific men from all parts of the country being now in Washington engaged in war work, and for other reasons that will probably occur to you, the Committee recently decided to hold the meeting in Baltimore instead of Boston. * * * It is planned to make the meeting a limited one—limited, however, only in the sense of restricting the program very largely to definite working problems related to the war."

After discussion it was unanimously voted that if the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science becomes a working meeting in the neighborhood of Washington, having for its object cooperation with the Government and the more perfect organization of scientific men to assist in the prosecution of the war, under these conditions the Executive Committee will favor a meeting of the Sigma Xi Society at the same place and for the same purpose. Various members of the Committee expressed their strong conviction

tions as to the importance of maintaining the scientific work of the country and of training a maximum number of men for those expert services which are necessary if the Government is to prosecute effectively the war in which it has engaged.

The Secretary was requested to give especial attention in the autumn number of the *QUARTERLY* to the advantages of associate membership and to a statement of the extent to which it had been adopted in various chapters.

The Executive Committee then adjourned for lunch and reassembled at two o'clock to continue the business in hand.

The matter of charters at certain institutions was then taken up and discussed at length. In accordance with custom this discussion is not published.

The question was submitted for the consideration of the Executive Committee as to whether in institutions having departments in different geographical locations, the members of the Society in one locality can be an integral part of the active organization on the main campus. It was voted that wherever such an outlying college, school, or station is in reality an integral part of the institution and under the full control of the governing body thereof, any person connected with it, even though not on the central campus of the institution may retain or acquire active membership in the chapter with all the rights and privileges connected therewith.

The question of Sigma Xi fellowships was discussed at considerable length. It was decided that there should be organized under the direction of the President an advisory Alumni Committee, and certain names were suggested for membership on that committee. The President was given the power to organize this work.

Some other matters of more informal character were discussed without action being taken. Before adjourning, however, the Committee voted its thanks to the Quadrangle Club of the University of Chicago and to President Stieglitz for the privileges accorded members in connection with the meeting.

Thereafter the Committee adjourned, subject to the call of the President.

HENRY B. WARD, *Secretary*